

MEDIA RELEASE

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SADA Welcomes Aust Govt Methane Approach

The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) has welcomed the collaborative approach of the Australian Government and National Farmers' Federation (NFF) in signing the **Global Methane Pledge**.

SADA is working with Primary Producers SA, Australian Dairy Farmers and the National Farmers Federation to ensure that our position and commitments are heard and considered. It is important that we as an industry are seen as a key part of the future and that we are allowed to participate in the debate regarding future programs rather than having rules and requirements enforced upon us as has been seen to happen in some other jurisdictions.

The Global Methane Pledge is an aspirational commitment with 122 signatories including the United Kingdom and Canada, and many of the world's largest livestock producers such as the United States, Brazil, and Argentina.

Signatories to this Pledge commit to undertaking domestic action across sectors. Further, the commitment is to contribute to global efforts to reduce methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030, noting that since 2005 Australia has already reduced its methane emissions by 15 per cent.

SADA has also committed itself to reducing methane emissions coming from South Australian dairy farms.

The Pledge does not require Australia to focus solely on agriculture, or reduce agricultural production or livestock numbers. In particular, signing the Pledge, the Australian Government will not legislate or introduce taxes or levies to reduce livestock emissions. Rather, the Government will take an economy-wide approach in partnership with relevant sectors. For example, the Safeguard Mechanism will contribute to the Pledge as many large industrial facilities reduce their emissions overtime.

Speaking from Mount Gambier today, SADA President, John Hunt welcomed the initiative.

"While dairy in SA only accounts for a fraction of a single percent of Australia's emissions SADA, on behalf of dairy farmers has already accepted that it, like so many others, have a role to play and SADA has been careful to advance research that is looking at ways to retard and ameliorate emissions across the board, including methane."

"The CSIRO has already found that adding to the diet of cows a particular type of seaweed, as much as 95% of enteric methane (cow burps) can be abated. SADA is also working on ways to limit the second most prevalent form of on farm methane, effluent by turning cow poop into usable energy."

"The announcement by the Australian Government that they are intending to increase funding in research in the area of methane abatement is most welcome."

"While dairy has a bright future in South Australia it is nevertheless incumbent on our industry as with every industry, to make its contribution to a sustainable future."
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